"I shall never see her—

but she's my baby"

The Vision Splendid

"Our hearts reach further than our eyes can see."

HOW many people who read these words will realise that it is nearly fifteen years ago since the first soldier blinded in the world-war—he was a Belgian, it is interesting to note—came under St. Dunstan's care? Within three years from that time the numbers of these gallant martyrs to the cause of King and Empire had grown to more than six hundred—a tragic toll which shocked the minds of us all. That even that number was to be more than trebled in the years that followed is now a matter of history, but it must never be regarded as history

alone. Glorious and epoch-making as has been the manner in which these sightless men have won victory over their great handicap by the ever-present aid of St. Dunstan's, those men have been blind, have been unable to see the faces of their loved ones, the blue of the sky, the golden sunlight flecking the green fields, for fifteen years, and the poignant thought of all is that they will never see these things again. Many, the majority in fact, have found loving wives, and have bonny children brightening their lives and homes. These, too, they have never seen. To us there is intense sadness in that thought, but to them—to the men of St. Dunstan's—there is always the protective shield their courage and perseverance has made, the determination that they will make the most of life as it is, will not dwell upon " what might have been."

But always, to their life's end, they must need, however great their courage, however high their spirit, the guiding and helping hand of St. Dunstan's, which from their first plunge into the depths of darkness, held forth the light of hope which has flamed into such wonderful achievement. Through all these years St. Dunstan's has redeemed in every way the pledge it first gave that these men should never be left to fend alone.

The multitude of helpers of St. Dunstan's Carol League has given wonderful and practical

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help to the cause of our war-blinded men. Its first tentative efforts were made within a few months after St. Dunstan's started its great work. It has grown from strength to strength and is to-day one of the most widely spread, most efficiently organised, and most helpful of all the activities which contribute to the financial needs of our Organisation.

In the following pages some details are given which may help both new and old supporters of the Carol League to continue and to extend their assistance.

* * * * *

The income available from such capital funds as St. Dunstan's has been able to accumulate provides but a small portion of the annual amount needed, and members of the Carol League do their best in their own way at Christmas time, or whenever is most convenient to them, to raise funds, thus rendering valuable aid in providing the remainder of the large sum required.

There is something that almost everyone can do to assist the Carol League, and all willing to fall in with any of the suggestions offered in this leaflet, or to help in any other way, are earnestly asked to place themselves in communication with the League at the Headquarters of St. Dunstan's Work.

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CHRISTMAS 1929 APPEAL

A Special plea is made for assistance in raising funds through the medium of Christmas Carol Parties (mixed parties, quartettes, masked choirs, etc.). All who enjoy the gift of sight are asked to organise, or join, a party for the benefit of the men who must spend this, and each succeeding, Christmas in darkness.

DONATIONS

AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

are earnestly invited from all unable to give personal service. New Annual Subscribers are much needed.

Note.—St. Dunstan's is Registered under the Blind Persons' Act, 1920. *A REPORT and BALANCE SHEET may be obtained an application.*

YOU CAN HELP

1. **By forming a local Branch of the League,** if one has not already been established in your district.

2. **By forming a Carol Party,** to make an appeal throughout December, singing carols outdoors or at private houses by invitation.

3. **By arranging a Christmas Play,** Fair or Social, or by organising at any time of the year a Bazaar, Sale of Work, Organ Recital, Concert, Whist Drive or other effort.

4. **By making known the needs of St. Dunstan's in Local Church Circles,** and asking all Churches (*a*) to arrange a Special Service on Sunday, 29th December (St. Dunstan's Carol Sunday), or some other Sunday if more convenient ; (*b*) to devote a Collection on Christmas Day, or other special occasion.

5. **By acting as Local Organiser of the St. Dunstan's Carol Sunday Annual Envelope Collection,** arranging for the distribution and collection of envelopes during the week 4th January to 11th January for the gifts of those who do not give in Church.

6. **By supporting the St. Dunstan's Junior Carol League,** arranging or influencing a School Entertainment, Collection, &c. (See page six.)

7. **By circulating copies of this Appeal** among likely helpers.

If able to assist in any of these ways, please underline method of help and complete Form on page seven.

THE JUNIOR LEAGUE

The St. Dunstan's Junior Carol League is the children's own organisation for helping our blinded men. Help may be rendered :—(1) By forming a Children's Carol Party (schools are specially asked to assist in this direction, an early start being suggested so as to allow of a convenient finish before breaking-up day). (2) In the case of Sunday Schools, or schools with a Chapel attached, by singing Carols at a convenient service and devoting the collection to the League. (3) By arranging a School Envelope Collection, or taking a collection on prize-giving day, or other special occasion. (4) By holding a Sale of Work, making this a winter or summer effort as most convenient. (5) By arranging a Christmas Play, Concert, Dance, or other effort.

CAROL PARTIES

Intending organisers of Carol Parties are asked to state the district in which members will sing, in order that the necessary steps can be taken to prevent overlapping. The Carol League offers a free supply of a leaflet suitable for house to house distribution prior to carol singing, and is prepared to lend collecting boxes and to supply special carols of its own in separate leaflet form, without charge. **A permit in accordance with the Blind Persons Act, 1920, will be sent to all organisers on receipt of their offer of help.**

OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE

Donations and Subscriptions and all communications should be sent to the Treasurer of St. Dunstan's, addressed as follows :—

MR. ERNEST KESSELL, C.B.E.,
St. Dunstan's Carol League,
St. Dunstan's Headquarters,
Inner Circle, Regent's Park,
London, N.W.1.

PLEASE USE THIS FORM

To the Treasurer, ST. DUNSTAN'S CAROL LEAGUE,
St. Dunstan's Headquarters,
Inner Circle, Regent's Park, London, N.W.1.

In answer to your appeal, I shall be pleased to help St. Dunstan's as follows :—

A— .....

B— .....

C— .....

Name .....

Address .....

.....

CHRISTMAS APPEAL

I enclose donation/annual subscription, value ..... which please credit to the general funds of St. Dunstan's in aid of our war-blinded men.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

To the Treasurer, ST. DUNSTAN'S CAROL LEAGUE,
St. Dunstan's Headquarters,
Inner Circle, Regent's Park, London, N.W.1.

Remittances should be made in the form of money order or crossed cheque, made payable to the Treasurer of St. Dunstan's and crossed St. Dunstan's Carol League, envelopes being marked " Christmas Appeal."

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